

plasma generating part used was in a rectangular form having a width of 600 mm and a height of 200 mm.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

A² 5. (New) The method of forming a carbon layer by vapor phase deposition according to claim 3, wherein said carbon layer is formed on top of an intermediate layer and the intermediate layer is formed on top of a lower protective layer such that the thermal head has a protective coating of a three-layer structure.

6. (New) The method of forming a carbon layer by vapor phase deposition according to claim 5, wherein said carbon layer has a thickness from 0.5 μm to 5 μm , said intermediate layer has a thickness from 0.05 μm to 1 μm , and said lower protective layer has a thickness from 0.2 μm to 20 μm .
